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him." And she had a right. We too are proud that Joseph Savage honored this society by 20 years of membership, service, and sympathy.

The Douglas County Horticultural Society had in Mr. Savage an active member, and to this society he read useful papers, notably one in December, 1877, on the soils of eastern Kansas, with the loess of the eastern counties as his principal illustration. In this paper he pointed out that the loess was especially good for strawberry growth, and that, as with its namesake in the Rhineland, it is the proper home of the grape vine. On the other hand, he showed that pear blight was developed among the trees of the loess.

There are many personal reminiscences we might give, but this is not the place. We want to record our appreciation of our departed friend while he was with us, and to express our sympathy with his bereaved partner, who says in a recent communication that he "was laid away on New Year's day, 1892. A happy new year to him, and the saddest and loneliest that ever came to me." May it be hers and ours to have a glad reunion.

E. P. WEST.

BY S. W. WILLISTON.

Judge E. P. West was born in Simpson county, Kentucky, November 14, 1820. His early years were spent upon a farm, and the greater part of his education was obtained at the Russellville Academy. He came to Cass county, Missouri, when 20 years of age, and there devoted himself to the study of law, shortly afterward entering upon its practice. For 30 years he was engaged in the practice of his profession, serving meanwhile as the judge of the court of common pleas of Cass county, and, during the Buchanan administration, as United States district attorney for New Mexico, his commission having been signed by Daniel Webster. During the War of the Rebellion, he was captain in the Missouri State Guards.

About 1870, he removed with his family to Kansas City, Mo., and practiced his profession there successfully for several years. He then began to turn his attention toward scientific subjects, especially geology and archaeology. He was one of the founders of the Kansas City Academy of Science, and, for a while, in conjunction with Mrs. Judge Krekel, edited a monthly magazine devoted to scientific subjects. His patient examination of the works of the mound builders along the Missouri river, attracted much attention. About eight years before his death, he became connected with the Kansas University, a position which he held uninterruptedly to the day of his death, which occurred January 26, 1892, from heart failure, in conjunction with ills incident to old age.

Personally Mr. West was, in many respects, a man of remarkable character, with a tireless energy and an indomitable will. At an age when most men are content to lean upon others, he still asserted, in an undiminished degree, the self-reliance and independence which had always characterized him. When past 70 years of age, he spent a season in the fossil fields of western Kansas, camping out alone, under the blazing sun and severe storms. Mr. West never published much. A few papers in the proceedings of this Academy, and in the *Kansas City Record of Science*, are about all, but he has left an unimperishable monument in the results of his tireless and patient labor in the geological department of the State University. To him, more than to any one else, is due the credit of the building up of the collection of fossils of the State in the museum of the University, a collection unequaled elsewhere, and one of which the State may be justly proud.

As is always the case with men of such strong will as he possessed, he was not always understood, his marked peculiarities often concealing his real worth. Beneath his exterior, so often brusque, he had a kind heart. Especially was he averse to all ceremony and pretension, and singularly opposed to anything which tended to make him personally prominent.

His last illness was long and painful, though undergone without complaint; he only wished for death. Almost the last words, found among his papers, were the following: "I have passed a pleasant day, and the night has overtaken me by the wayside. Let me rest in its kind enfoldments."

ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF SORGHUM BY SEED SELECTION.

BY G. H. FAILEYER AND J. T. WILLARD, STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The experiments reported upon are those conducted by the chemical department of the Agricultural College Experiment Station. The full accounts of this work, which extends over five years, may be found in the reports and bulletins of the station. The work may be briefly outlined, as follows:

1. The object of the experiment is to improve our best varieties of sorghum by propagating only from the best stalks.
2. Which are the best stalks is determined in the only way possible, viz., by analysis of the juice of single stalks. In this way the most superior seed tops from among several hundred single plants can be selected.
3. Seed from the best seed tops so obtained is planted the next year, and selections are again made as before, and so on year after year.
4. A large, but gradual, increase in sugar content has been observed during the five years that the experiment has been in progress. Part of this improvement may be due to acclimatization, but the writers think that no reasonable doubt can be entertained that the seed selection has been a very important factor in the improvement.

A VARIETY OF AMPELOPSIS QUINQUEFOLIA.

BY E. B. KNERR, ATCHISON.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, the botanists fail to notice and describe a variety of the Virginia creeper, *Ampelopsis quinquefolia* Michx., in which characteristic points of difference from the typical species are quite marked.

In the first place, the habit of growth is quite different. As is commonly known, the true species climbs by clinging very closely to its support, whether that be a tree or a wall. The variety does not cling so closely to its support; in fact, it is impossible for it to climb a wall or a tree trunk, unless the bark of the tree be very rough, owing to the structure of its tendrils. It climbs rather like the grape and the clematis, by trailing over low shrubbery to that which is higher, until it may reach the lower branches of a tree, when it may rise to a considerable height by reaching from branch to branch, rather than by clinging close to the body of the tree and larger branches. Sometimes, in transplanting the Virginia creeper, this variety is hit upon, and people wonder why it fails to cling to the side of the house. If the tendrils be examined, they will be found to be more like grape tendrils, long, curling, and grasping by recurved tips, rather than short, digitate, and clinging by disk-like expan-